

## **OFFICIAL RULES FOR THE FINANCIAL SCHOLARS ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST**

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner (KSC), the Office of the State Bank Commissioner (OSBC) and the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) are consumer protection agencies dedicated to keeping Kansans informed about issues concerning their finances, and promoting integrity and increasing transparency and fairness in the financial services industry. Our agencies are sponsoring an essay competition and will award up to five scholarships to Kansas high school seniors this year.

### **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

First Place: \$3,000

Second Place: \$2,000

Third Place: \$1,000

Fourth Place: \$1,000

Fifth Place: \$1,000

### **STUDENT TOPIC ASSIGNMENT**

#### **Essay Part 1**

In two pages or less, discuss a real-life event that you, a friend or family member has experienced that made a significant impact on your view of smart money management.

How has this experience affected your approach to managing your own money for the next five years, or until you graduate from college? Take into account the following: savings/budgets, banking, credit and loans, investing/saving for the future and purchasing insurance.

#### **Essay Part 2: Real-world Application**

A. Interview one to two persons who are already active in the field/career to which you aspire. Suggested questions to ask in the interview (do not limit to only these):

- 1) What drew you to the field/business/industry you are in right now?
- 2) How easy/difficult has it been to advance in this field?

B. Provide a **3 to 6-page analysis (800-1500 words)** of how you will apply what you learned from the interview, what you wrote about in Part 1, and what you learned from your financial literacy course to your own life as you prepare for the future.

#### **Essay Part 2, continued:**

Please incorporate at least two of the following into your analysis (*cite sources*):

- A simple Excel chart comparing the cost of various types of higher education (i.e. technical college, community college, 4-year college, private vs. public school, or the choice of a school in Kansas vs. out-of-state school, etc.)
- The positive and negative aspects of getting a loan for higher education versus paying your way through college (through scholarships, working during school, or finding more affordable educational options, etc.)
- The earning potential of your chosen degree/major or career, and the average debt load and pay-off time the average graduate in that field will face upon completing higher education. Consider also: job availability and demand, and jobs graduates are *actually* acquiring with your chosen degree.

## WHO

The competition is open to any public, private or homeschool Kansas high school Senior who meets the following two qualifications:

- 1) **The Senior must be planning to attend a Kansas technical school, college or university.**  
Not attending a Kansas school of higher learning will constitute forfeiture of the award.

**The Senior must have enrolled in and completed at least one of the following approved\* financial literacy courses during their high school career: EverFi/The Kansas Financial Scholars Program, The Stock Market Game, Personal Finance Challenge (KCEE), MoneySKILL, Foundations in Personal Finance (Dave Ramsey), Banzai, High School Financial Planning Program (NEFE).** Successful completion of an approved course by April 12th is required. IF a certificate of completion is available, the student should email it with their essay submission. A teacher will be asked to verify student participation to confirm eligibility.

\*Upon review and by request, other courses *may* gain approval as eligible for participation in the contest. Interested teachers should prepare a syllabus of their course and contact Dana Branam at 785.296.1783 prior to their students' submissions.

If you are not enrolled in an approved program but would like to enroll for free today and be eligible for this year's Essay Scholarship Contest, call 785.296.3307.

## **Teacher Prizes**

- 1) The teacher of the first-place student winner will receive a \$150 gift card to purchase educational supplies.
- 2) The teacher who is credited with the greatest number of **\*\*quality** entries submitted will receive a \$150 gift card.

**\*\*Quality means that the essay meets the appropriate length and submission requirements, and that proper grammar is displayed throughout the paper.**

## **HOW**

- Style: [Op-ed \(MLA or APA accepted\)](#)
- Format: Word document
- Entries must be in English and typed in 12-pointfont and double-spaced.
- The profile portion should not exceed 500 words.
- The interview, personal application & analysis portion should be between 800 and 1500 words.
- [Citation](#) from credible sources is expected.
- A completed Entry Form must accompany each essay submission. Words on Entry Form will not count toward the total word count. The Entry Form may be typed or neatly handwritten.

Please save the document as <School\_FirstNameLastName> i.e. **RiverSideHigh\_JohnBrown**.  
*Please list the document in this same format in the email subject line.*

**Essayists are strongly encouraged to have someone (a teacher, parent, adult or peer) review their essay before submission.**

## **WHEN**

Essay submissions will be accepted from Jan. 7, 2019 until **11:59 p.m. CST, Monday, April 1, 2019**. Judge's clock is the official time keeper. If possible, entry forms and essays should be merged into a single Word document attachment and emailed by the deadline to: [ksc@ks.gov](mailto:ksc@ks.gov)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS & AWARDS CEREMONY**

The winning essays will be announced on or before Tuesday, April 23, 2019 via KSC (@Kansas.Securities), OSBC (@ksosbc) and KID (@KansasInsuranceDepartment) Facebook Pages.

Scholarships will be awarded at the **2019 Financial Scholars Awards Ceremony in Topeka, Kansas** on **Wednesday, May 1, 2019**. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the ceremony unless they have a sufficient reason for not attending.

## JUDGING & LEGAL TERMS

Essays will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of and Adherence to Essay Requirements **(30 points)**
  - Student demonstrates financial knowledge and conveys the importance of financial literacy; student accurately connects experiences in Essay Part 1 and 2, and describes their personal significance or value.
- Word choice), Punctuation and Spelling **(30 points)**
  - Student displays wide vocabulary range and good word choice; proper grammar is displayed with little to no grammatical errors
- Personal Expression, Fluency and Supporting Evidence **(40 points)**
  - Student uses personality in their writing; essays are organized with clear introduction, body and conclusion; sentences/paragraphs flow smoothly; credible sources are used to support information; essay highlights a positive theme

By submitting an entry to the competition, entrants acknowledge that all submissions may be posted on the Offices of the State Banking Commissioner (OSBC), the Securities Commissioner (KSC) and the Kansas Insurance Department's (KID) websites or their social media outlets, as well as the KansasMoney.gov website for viewing by the general public. Entrants also grant in perpetuity, a nonexclusive license to edit, publish, display, duplicate or otherwise use the submission, and photographs and video of the participants in connection with this contest, for the Sponsors (OSBC, KSC and KID) and their Designees in their sole discretion whatsoever and without further notice or compensation.